

Rocket kills 23 in Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghan resistance fired 17 rockets on Kabul's residential areas, killing 23 civilians, the official Afghan Radio reported Tuesday. Kabul Radio, in a broadcast monitored in Islamabad, said 28 other people were wounded in the surface-to-surface rocket attack Monday evening. The dead included children and women. It said one rocket hit a house in southern Kabul, killing five members of the same family. Six people were killed in a children's playground in the centre of the capital. Some of the victims were returning home from work, the radio added. The ruling Communist Party condemned the attack in a meeting held Tuesday describing it as "crimes committed by the enemies of peace and peace-loving citizens." The party urged authorities to ensure the city's security, the radio said. The radio reported Monday that the security forces foiled an attempt by the resistance to fire rockets on the capital's residential areas. It was not clear if the incidents were related. In another development, the resistance attacked the central city of Ghazni, killing one person and injuring six. The attack came only six days before an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan are due to begin pulling out under U.N.-mediated accords.

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Crown Prince hosts iftar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Tuesday hosted an iftar for non-commissioned officers of the Armed Forces and the Public Security and Civil Defence departments. The iftar, held at Al Hussein Youth City, was attended by the assistant chief of staff for manpower and other senior army officers.

Israel says commando killed

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Lebanese resistance fighter in a clash in South Lebanon early Tuesday, the military command said. No Israeli casualties were reported. The clash occurred shortly after midnight on the border of Israel's self-designed "security zone" in Lebanon, according to the army. The army said the Israeli soldiers spotted a commando squad that apparently tried to infiltrate into the "security zone" and plant land mines on the roads used by Israeli troops. It said the fighter who was killed carried a rifle, a Katyusha rocket and two land mines.

Gorbachev: Reform causes turmoil at high level

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said in a speech released Tuesday that his ambitious "prestoika" programme to reform Soviet society had created mass turmoil, even at the country's highest levels. In a speech last Saturday to editors of leading newspapers and journals, Gorbachev said many communist party members were unprepared to implement "prestoika" (restructuring). "We have seen that far from all cadres are ready to evaluate the present situation correctly," he said. "We have revealed a real turmoil in the minds of many people — workers, intelligentsia and leading cadres, not only below but at the top."

Mercouri in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — Greek Culture Minister Melina Mercouri arrived in Turkey Tuesday with a message for Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and kind words about the many traditions shared by the sparring nations. Mercouri, the first Greek minister to make an official visit to Turkey since Turkish troops occupied northern Cyprus in 1974, told reporters her message from Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou dealt with "the new friendship."

Sytenko holds talks in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — A Soviet envoy discussed the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan with Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry officials Tuesday. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. It said roving Ambassador Mikhail Sytenko, who arrived from Amman Monday on an Arab tour, discussed conflicts in the Middle East with Foreign Minister Under-Secretary Suleiman Majid Al Shaheen.

Brunei may join OPEC

RIYADH (R) — Brunei is interested in joining the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the sultante's ambassador to Riyadh was quoted as saying Tuesday. In an interview in the Riyadh Daily, Datuk Malai Haji Ahmad said Brunei was seriously considering joining the 13-member oil group. Brunei is the third largest oil producer in Southeast Asia after Indonesia and Malaysia. Since independence in 1984, Brunei has followed a policy of cooperation with OPEC policies.

U.S. orders withdrawal of Singapore diplomat

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Tuesday it had ordered the withdrawal of a Singapore diplomat from Washington following Singapore's expulsion of an American diplomat last week.

PLO wanted joint delegation with Egypt, King reveals

Jordan proposes pan-Arab rapid deployment force

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that he had made a proposal to a number of Arab leaders attending the Amman Arab summit meeting last November to set up an Arab rapid deployment force that could intervene in any part of the Arab World exposed to external danger.

In an interview with the Agence France Presse (AFP) in Amman, the King said he proposed that the joint force consist of three divisions with a total of 30,000 men and that Jordan would be willing to contribute up to one third or one half of the force, which would serve the goals of the Arab League Charter and the Joint Arab Defence Pact.

Israeli army launches forced change of ID cards of Gazans

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — The Israeli army began a massive operation Tuesday to replace the identity cards of the entire population of the occupied Gaza Strip with the avowed aim of tightening control over Palestinian residents.

The operation means a change of documents for 400,000 people over the age of 16 in the Gaza Strip.

Amid massive security, more than 700 Palestinian men waited for hours under makeshift tents to receive new cards which army Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said aimed at increasing Palestinian dependence on Israel.

Once foreign journalists had left, witnesses quoted by news agency said Israeli officials confiscated the old ID documents of many applicants and ordered them to produce proof that they had paid taxes, water and electricity bills and had no outstanding criminal cases before they could receive the new card.

Others were told to report for interrogation by Israel's Shin Bet secret police, the witnesses said.

Those who do not have the new cards will be barred from leaving the Gaza Strip, and thus from work in Israel. They also face fines and possible imprisonment.

A U.N. official observing the proceedings said it reminded him of the slogan "big brother is watching you" from George Orwell's novel "Nineteen Eighty-four" depicting life in a future totalitarian world.

Underground leaders issued a warning from a mosque loudspeaker, ordering Gazans not to

cooperate with the army. They said the programme was an attempt to abort the five-month Palestinian uprising.

Meanwhile Israeli soldiers shot and wounded a Palestinian Tuesday after their jeep was stoned in the West Bank village of Ramun, near Tulkarem, the army command said.

The unidentified box was taken to Tulkarem hospital where he was listed in serious condition, Israel Radio reported.

In Gaza, hundreds of people have converged into a school which has been converted into a makeshift registration centre. Many said the army forced them to come.

"All the identity cards in the Gaza Strip are being changed in order to increase the dependence of the population on the civil administration," Israeli Chief of Staff Dan Shomron told parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee.

"If the aim of the uprising was to shake off this dependence, our aim is to increase it," parliamentary sources quoted Shomron as saying.

All three major resistance organisations in the Gaza strip — the United National Leadership of the Uprising, the Islamic Jihad and the Muslim Brotherhood — have called on Palestinians to boycott the new cards.

A U.N. official said Palestinians hurled stones at troops and set up roadblocks to protest against the move. But a massive army presence prevented a major outbreak of violence.

One witness told an Arab reporter that soldiers confiscated one portion of the Israeli-issued identity cards and stuffed them in huge plastic bags. Without the confiscated portion, the current card becomes invalid.

"It is Ramadan. We are fasting," said Ahmad Abu Hassan, 26. "We are not animals to spend all day here waiting. Instead of changing our identity cards, the Israelis should change their minds."

(Continued on page 5)



HM King Hussein

The Arab leaders welcomed the idea and showed interest in the proposal, but more contacts are needed before anything could materialise," the King said.

The King referred particularly to the situation in the Gulf and said had the Arab provided meaningful help to Iraq in the war with Iran could have ended a long time ago and the danger posed to the Arab Gulf state would have been eliminated.

Asked whether there was any possibility of a new war in the Middle East, the King said, the situation was bound to explode if all efforts to reach a peaceful and acceptable settlement failed. "The Arabs should be alert and ready for any eventuality," the King said.

Egypt's Arab role

Relying to a question the planned extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers, the King said Jordan demands that Egypt be represented at the summit since

(Continued on page 5)

Iran repeats denial of Iraqi charges of shelling

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran said its fighter-bombers pounded Iraqi frontline positions Tuesday but repeated denials its gunners had shelled a northern Iraqi border town.

A military communiqué, quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency, said Iranian jets flew 10 bombing missions against Iraqi troops, armour and fortifications at Sharaham on the south-central war front. All aircraft returned safely, it said.

The aim is, by whitewashing the issue of chemical weapons, to pave the way for an arms embargo against Iran," Tehran Radio said.

The resolution condemned the use of chemical arms in the Iran-Iraq war and said it expected both sides to refrain from using the banned weapons in future. It did not identify any country for blame.

Iraq has accused Iran of helling Darbandikan, 240 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, and other border towns on several occasions since the two countries halted missile strikes on each other's cities April 20.

Iraq also said Tuesday a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning chemical warfare in the Iran-Iraq war was ambiguous and ineffective.

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Arafat reports receiving formal U.S. threat against PLO leaders

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Tuesday he had received an official message from U.S. government accusing him of approving attacks against American citizens and targets abroad in retaliation for last month's assassination of PLO deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad).

Arafat denied the accusations at a news conference early Tuesday. He said the message had been conveyed to him by an Arab

country which he did not name. The message referred to "charges in several Middle Eastern and particularly Palestinian circles that the U.S. knew of and approved Abu Jihad's assassination."

Abu Jihad was killed in Tunis last month. Israel is believed to have been responsible.

Arafat said security was being strengthened at PLO offices around the Arab World in the wake of the threat, but gave no details of the new measures.

A photocopy of the message.

made available to reporters, bore no identifying marks but had the word "confidential" rubber-stamped on the bottom.

The document, typed in English, read in full:

"You may be aware of charges in several Middle Eastern and particularly Palestinian circles that the U.S. knew of and approved Abu Jihad's assassination."

"On April 18th (a) State Department spokesman said that the United States condemns this act

(Continued on page 5)

Militias fortify positions as uneasy truce holds after Beirut battle

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Sporadic firing echoed in Beirut's southern suburbs Tuesday as rival Shi'ite militiamen fortified their positions, apparently preparing for another round of violence despite a Syrian-brokered truce.

Two people were killed and five people were wounded in sniper fire exchanges Tuesday, police said. But the firing was markedly less intense than the tank, mortar and rocket duels of the previous four days.

By police count, the fighting between the Syrian-backed Amal and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah has killed 154 people and wounded 372 since Friday.

There still was no word on the fate of 18 foreign hostages, most of whom are believed held in a 40-square-kilometre region by extremists linked to Hezbollah.

But a police source maintained that it was "physically impossible" for the kidnappers to have been able to smuggle any of the hostages out of the suburbs because Amal controlled all exits.

Dozens of families, many of them carrying mattresses and clothes on their backs, were seen leaving the slums, where 250,000 Shi'ites live. Police say up to 60 per cent of the population had fled by Tuesday.

Before dawn, 36 Syrian officers

moved into the area with six committees in an effort to implement a cease-fire.

The committees, each of which also includes an Iranian embassy official, a representative of Amal and another of Hezbollah, set up six trace observation posts, a police spokesman said.

Two Amal men were killed in a brief rocket and machinegun exchange in Shayah district, witnesses quoted by Reuters said.

Amal said sniper fire wounded one of its men in Bourj Al Barajneh, while Hezbollah said one of its fighters was injured by Amal

(Continued on page 5)

Shevardnadze confident over INF

GENEVA (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze appeared confident Tuesday the U.S. Senate would ratify the superpower medium-range missile treaty, saying U.S. negotiators would not have proposed an unacceptable pact. Shevardnadze was speaking on arrival in Geneva for final talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz before the May 29-June 2 Moscow superpower summit. He said a planned accord to halve Soviet and U.S. strategic nuclear arsenals would be in the forefront of their talks. "I do not think we will be able to complete work on that agreement, but we will try to achieve substantive progress and to consolidate this accord," he told reporters. Referring to the postponement of the Senate debate (see page 8) on ratifying the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty signed in Washington last December, he said he felt verification problems had "basically" been resolved. "I am aware that problems have arisen recently," Shevardnadze said. "The American side was asking certain questions and for some clarification. We answered those questions and we thought there were no problems." Let me say that I know almost all the American negotiators personally.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai (left) Tuesday confers with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi (Petra photo)

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai held talks with Ibrahimi shortly before the foreign minister left Amman on current Arab affairs and arrangements for the summit.

Earlier Ibrahimi and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri held similar talks.

Ibrahimi, seeking full attendance at the Algiers meeting, also plans to visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Syria, the Algerian Press Service said.

The extraordinary summit will discuss the Palestinian uprising, the situation in the occupied lands as well as the latest developments in the Arab World.

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The vote was 14-1, despite negotiations to moderate the resolution in an effort to avert a U.S. veto. The United States frequently shields Israel, its ally, by exercising its veto power to kill resolutions critical of the Zionist state.

The vote came after a three-day debate requested by Lebanon, which protested the incursion. More than 20 speakers denounced the incursion as state

terrorism and a violation of Lebanese sovereignty.

It was the sixth Security Council meeting in six months, called to deplore Israel's harsh handling of the Palestinian uprising, the expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories, military actions in southern Lebanon and the assassination of Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) in Tunis, blamed on Israel.

This was the second time this year the United States had vetoed a council resolution condemning Israeli attacks against Lebanese territory.

Israel announced last Wednesday it had completed a 48-hour operation in southern Lebanon.

The King also wished Mitterrand continued good health and happiness and the French people further progress and prosperity.

King congratulates Mitterrand

AMMAN (R) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to French President Francois Mitterrand congratulating him on his re-election for a second seven-year term. King Hussein expressed happiness and voiced confidence that close cooperation would continue between Jordan and France.

The King also expressed hope that efforts would continue towards bolstering bilateral relations and serving the causes of right and justice.

The King also wished Mitterrand continued good health and happiness and the French people further progress and prosperity.

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The president of the Republic, taking into account Article 8 of the constitution, decrees that the functions of Mr. Jacques Chirac as prime minister and the other members of his government have ceased.

"Mr. Michel Rocard is named prime minister," Bianco said in a brief statement.

Rocard, 57, is a former minister of agriculture and planning who dropped out of this year's presidential race in favour of Mitterrand.

A dapper, combative man, he is an outsider in the Socialist Party for his outspoken defence of social democratic policies, including the free-market economy.

But he has been France's most popular politician and his name was greeted with rapturous applause at Mitterrand's campaign rallies.

Rocard is expected to name a centre-left government Thursday likely to include a large number of non-socialist or technocrats.

R

The right place for the right investment

The following is the text of a paper presented by Khalid A. Abusgassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, to a Jordanian-Japanese seminar on investment in Jordan. The seminar was held in Tokyo on April 20 during His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Japan.

Economic climate

THE Jordan economic system is essentially free enterprise system. Within this system, the manufacturing industry is overwhelmingly in the hands of the private sector. However, the Jordan government, whether directly or through some agencies, such as the Social Security and Pension Funds, holds important equity positions in many of the larger industrial enterprises which inter alia, include phosphate and potash production.

Business practices in Jordan are characterised by Western orientations and infrastructure is very extensively developed. Jordan's geographic location in the region makes it an extremely attractive centre for regional industrial and other business operations, as well as for foreign investment.

The economic climate is a mixture of political stability, geographical location, economic growth, hospitable environment, skilled manpower — all coupled with generous incentives, and availability of well-equipped space in the industrial estates and the free zones, which all make the country a justifiable and good choice for industrial operations. The close proximity to the oil-producing Arab countries and their dynamic markets add to the prospects of successful joint business cooperation, including activities in exports, industrial and financial services.

Forecasts for the future of the economy are reassuring. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who symbolises the guiding force behind Jordan's economic and social development plans, attaches great importance to the resourceful merits and abilities of Jordan to play an active economic role not only in the development and modernisation of Jordan per se but also of the region as a whole.

Jordan, in His Royal Highness's confirmed views, possesses the ability to evolve and pursue regional business enterprises, and promote complementary economic projects within the region, and provide an advanced technological and maintenance services, and indeed, act as a dependable base for the area. Jordan's free economic system, modern infrastructure and skilled and disciplined workforce well sustain this foresight for the growth of regional trade and complementaries.

Among His Royal Highness's foresight projects is the development of the naturally homogeneous geographic area of the Red Sea extending regionally between the South of Jordan, parts of Egyptian Sinai and the northern parts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is conceived as a region rich in physical deposits and potential economic prospects. Much of the future of regional economic development can be geared to developing this geographic region. However, and

in all aspects, friendly developed countries, such as the highly developed country of Japan can play a vital role in supporting these and other projects for mutual benefit and continuing economic cooperation.

Laws governing industry in Jordan

Business activities in Jordan are governed by four basic laws: Namely the Commercial Code, the Companies Law, the Labour Law, and the Encouragement of Investment Law.

Regarding foreign investment, the most significant of these laws is the Encouragement of Investment Law number (6) of the year 1984.

This law accords equal treatment to national and foreign capital, and commits the Jordan government to guarantee continuity of enforcement without any deduction or amendment of any exemptions or facilities, irrespective of the provisions of any other law in force. In addition, capital and dividends of earnings are transferable abroad, without any restrictions in the foreign exchange of choice beyond the prior approval of the Central Bank.

Briefly, the law divides the Kingdom for the purpose of designating incentives into three zones: "A," "B," and "C" with the lesser developed zones accorded longer and more generous exemptions from income tax and customs duty on imported fixed assets. By way of practical example it is estimated that a total capital investment of about U.S. \$90 million through a total of some 280 projects benefit from the law.

In industry and mining, exemption from Income and Social Welfare Taxes extends in full to six successive years and 60 per cent during the next two years in zone "A," i.e. the environs of Amman. In zone "B" exemption is 10 years, and in zone "C" it is 15 years. In all zones, the period of exemption is extended by two more years if the project is owned by a public shareholding company.

The manufacturing sector

The manufacturing sector is overwhelmingly private. It receives consistent backing, credit facilities, through Jordan Development Bank, and export encouragement through an exemption from tax of part of the export earnings.

Generally speaking, the manufacturing sector, covering 13 sub-sectors, includes some 9,600 establishments. It is composed of four categories according to type of activity:

a) commodity producing establishments;

b) auxiliary and service establishments;

c) vocational trades;

d) handicrafts and cottage industries.

The sub-sectors are as follows:

- leather products;
- therapeutic products;
- plastic and rubber;
- chemical products;
- cosmetics and perfumes;
- engineering industries (electric and metal);

- furniture, kitchen cabinets and doors (wood and metal);
- construction industries;
- printing, paper and stationery;
- supply industries;
- woven industries;
- packing and packaging;
- agricultural industries.

The overall industrial output production (base 1979=100) rose from 119.5 in 1980 to 205.9 at the end of 1987. For example, phosphate production increased from 3.9 million tons in 1980 to 6.84 million tons in 1987. Cement from 932,700 tons to 2,371,600, generated energy from 1,175 million kWh to 3,122 million kWh. Yarns from 762 tons to 2,179, potash from zero to 1,203,000 tons, construction bars from 86,200 tons to 217,000, pipes from 11,800 tons to 217,000, petroleum products from 1,760,000 tons to 2,404,000, cardboard from 15,400 tons to 20,500, fertilisers from zero to 604,000 tons, etc. Many of the larger enterprises have foreign partners providing equity or know-how, or licence or all. By way of example:

— An American-Jordanian joint venture manufactures boots and other footwear.

— A Jordanian-Danish company manufactures wooden doors, kitchens and others.

— A Jordanian-British joint venture manufactures Alladin Stoves.

— A Jordanian-British joint venture manufactures soap, soap detergents and paints.

— A Jordanian-American joint venture manufactures paints.

— A Jordanian-Swedish joint venture manufactures matches.

— A Jordanian-French joint venture manufactures pipes.

— A Danish company bottles milk and syrups.

A Dutch-Jordanian joint venture produces beer.

Manufactured goods

Manufactured goods include: Woollen piece goods, cigarettes, textiles, wearing apparel, household appliances, pharmaceutical and veterinary drugs, soaps, plastics, leather goods and shoes, phosphate, potash, wooden doors, furniture, paints, construction steel rods, matches, cardboard, alcoholic beverages, cosmetics, gypsum, cement — white and portland — plastic pipes, canned foods, baby napkins, tissue paper, confectionery and others.

Permanent exhibition

The Amman Chamber of Industry maintains at its building a permanent exhibition of domestic manufacturers. Jordan organises

or participates in exhibitions arranged in Arab and other countries.

Standard specifications

The Ministry of Industry and Trade promulgates standard specifications for almost all local manufacturers and quality control tests. Imports of goods not conforming to these standards are prohibited. Industrial laboratories and consultancy services are maintained by the Royal Scientific Society in Amman.

Industrial estates and free zones

An industrial estate, in Sahab, some 15 kilometres to the south of Amman, and another under construction in Irbid, some 160 kilometres north of Amman, provide standing factory buildings to facilitate industrial operations and stimulate investment. Some 100 enterprises are already operating inside the Sahab Industrial Estate. A standing rule of the estate accords each industrial enterprise a two-year exemption from income and social welfare taxes.

There are three operating free zones in Jordan: One at Aqaba, the seaport of Jordan, another at Zarqa, some 40 kilometres to the east of Amman, and a third, a Jordanian-Syrian joint venture in the north astride the Jordanian

Syrian frontiers. The free zones encourage investment by allowing tax exemptions on materials and income and social welfare taxes for 12 years.

Exports

The key to industrial production will always be the need to manufacture import substitutes and exports. Although Jordanian businessmen are well known for their active and experienced import trade, they have yet to master the export business. Consistent and energetic efforts are made by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Amman Chamber of Industry to promote exports even through a counter trade system.

Exports are composed of phosphate, potash, manufactured goods and fresh vegetables and fruits. They totalled JD 226 million in 1986, compared to JD 120 million in 1985. Imports in 1986 amounted to JD \$50 million as against JD 715 million in 1980.

Bright prospects for exportation are based on the potential to export to other Arab markets through wider participation by foreign firms that can contribute to technology and marketing and management expertise.

Establishing joint venture

Joint venture and licensing opportunities in Jordan are sustained by a favourable investment climate, and a growing domestic

and export market. The current five-year-plan 1986-1990 provides a wealth of studied indications as to investment opportunities.

The economic history of Jordan and economic facts and figures demonstrate consistent progress, and prospects of development and expansion. The facts and figures attest to Jordan's credibility and healthy economic growth. They provide clear indicators that prospective investors are coming to an organised and progressive country, where people are eager to work and cooperate.

Basic fields and figures

Population: East Jordan, approximately 3 million

Area: 38.5 sq. miles — 96,000 sq. kilometres

Language: Arabic-English widely used

Currency: Jordanian dinar — JD divided into 1,000 fils.

Time: Jordan is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

Work hours: Business enterprises eight hours per day for six days. The seventh day, Friday is weekly day of rest.

Five-year plan

The third five-year development plan, 1986-1990, is an ambitious and comprehensive plan. It envisages a total investment of JD 3.1 billion (U.S. \$10.54 billion) with priorities to manufacturing and mining, water and irrigation.

Labour

Labour is governed by the Labour Law. The government maintains a policy of the free movement of labour, which

allows about 300,000 persons to work abroad, and about 100,000 foreigners to work in Jordan. Work hours are 48 per week and the law regulates annual and sick leaves and other aspects of work.

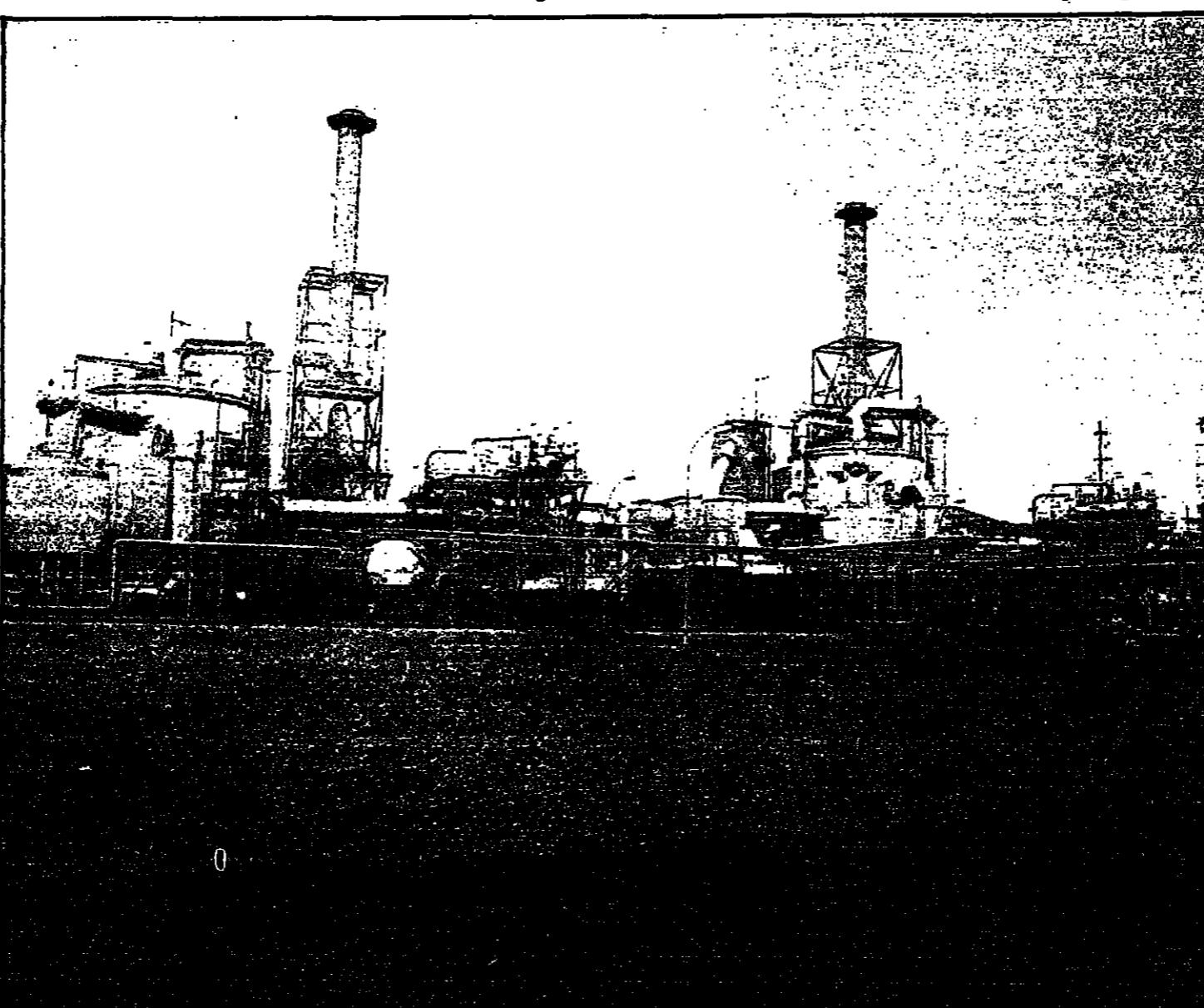
The Social Security Fund requires for the purposes of labour compensation, pension and other aims, that employers provide to the fund with 10 per cent of the monthly wages, against 5 per cent paid by employees.

The Ministry of Labour enforces the Labour Law, promotes tripartite relations between the government, employers and employees for the purpose of improving industrial relations and tackling labour problems.

The following indicators are essentially helpful:

	1983	1984	1985	1986
G.N.P.				
(at market price)	1769	1854	1849	1917
Net National Prod.				
(at factor cost)	1484	1551	1519	1573
Agricul' Production				
(metric tons 1000)				
(1975=100)				
Plant Production, cereals, pulses, fruits etc.	951	832	1102	1176
Olives	472	1062	419	676
Industrial Index				
(1979=100)	151	181	185	188
Money & Banking (million JD)				
Money supply (M1)	869	878	848	897
Commercial Bank Deposits				
Commercial Bank Credit Outstanding (MJD)	1397	1603	1747	1946
Imports (million dinars)	1031	1184	1274	1395
Exports (million dinars)	1013	1071	1074	850
	160	261	255	226

Note: (Source — Central Bank Bulletin Jan. 1988.



Phosphoric acid plant, DAP plant and sulphuric acid plant at the JORDAN FERTILISER INDUSTRY CO (JFI) at AQABA commissioned in 1982.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

18:00 News Summary

18:25 Science Report

18:30 Music

19:00 News Desk

19:30 Date with a Star

20:00 Evening Show

21:00 News Summary

21:25 Evening Show Contd.

21:45 Children's series

15:10 Religious programmes

15:45 Thousand and One Nights

16:45 Arabic play

16:40 Cooking programme

17:00 Religious programme

17:30 Health programme

18:00 Arabic series

18:45 Koranic content

19:00 Religious programme

19:45 Programme review

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Arabic series

21:35 Puzzles from all over the world

22:00 Historical series

22:30 News summary in Arabic

23:00 Arabic series

23:45 The Spectacular World of Guiness Records

21:00 Hooperman (comedy series)

21:30 Twilight Zone

22:00 News in English

22:30 Ford

07:45 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM

& partly on 9560 KHz, SW

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BBC WORLD SERVICE

Hindawi approves loans for teachers

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Minister of Education Thounan Hindawi has approved loans for teachers employed by the Ministry of Education schools.

These teachers who were appointed in January this year have not yet received their pay pending the completion of procedures that normally take several months to finalize.

The Ministry of Education's Building and Projects Department has meanwhile announced a tender for building housing units for teachers Shabak, Mohammadi, Tisan, Mreigheh, Basta and Rajef, all in the Ma'an governorate.

The projects will cost JD 53,000 according to a ministry official who said the units will be ready for occupancy by the beginning of the coming scholastic year.

These units he said, will accommodate some 70 teachers altogether.

The same department announced also that work on a total of 72 schools will be completed this summer, and will open for students in September.

These schools, which are in different parts of the Kingdom, are part of the ministry's comprehensive plans to dispose of rented buildings now serving as schools and eliminate the two-shift school system in the Kingdom.

Jordanian expatriates open centre in Dallas

DALLAS (Petra, J.T.) — The Jordanian community in the American state of Texas has opened a centre at Dallas to look after the interests of the community members and to bolster bridges between them and the motherland.

The head of the community, Ibrahim Ayed, and the centre's Administrative Director Mahmoud Abul Ghannam voiced their appreciation for His Majesty King Hussein's support and encouragement for their community during an inaugural ceremony here.

The project was discussed in Amman last February by community representatives and Minister of Social Development Rashid Ureikat, who voiced Jordan's total support for the project.

The Ministry of Social Development's Expatriates Department Director Azmi Muhtasseb

described the new centre as another step for enhancing Jordanian expatriates links with their country, and said that other similar centres could now be opened throughout the United States.

Two other centres are scheduled to be opened in New Jersey and Chicago just before the convening of the fourth Jordanian Expatriates Conference in Amman in July, Muhtasseb said.

Muhtasseb said earlier that a special committee has been formed to prepare the ground for the coming conference, which will discuss social, economic, housing and other issues of concern to the expatriates, and means for enhancing their ties with their country.

According to Muhtasseb this year's conference will focus attention on expatriates investments in Jordan.

AIDS carrier hospitalised

AMMAN (I.T.) — One of eight Jordanian carriers of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) discovered in Jordan last October has been admitted to hospital in Amman after it was found that he had fallen victim to the killer disease, according to a report in 'Al Dustour' Arabic daily.

The gazer said that the patient, whose name was not disclosed, was now under strict surveillance by doctors.

The victim had received blood transfusion while undergoing a surgical operation abroad, according to the paper quoting Health Ministry sources.

The Health Ministry last October announced the discovery of 12 cases of AIDS in Jordan, eight of whom were Jordanians, and in January 1988 the ministry reported the death of one of the victims who had been undergoing medical treatment in Amman.

His death raised to three the total number of AIDS victims to die in Jordan over the past year.

The ministry last month announced that a national committee charged with taking measures for combating AIDS reviewed measures for spreading information on the killer disease to the public.

The committee comprises rep-

resentatives of the Health Ministry and the Ministries of Education, Interior, Information, Higher Education and Awqaf and Islamic Affairs as well as the Public Security Department, the Bar Association, the Jordan Press Association, the General Union of Voluntary Societies and General Union of Federation of Jordanian Women.

Earlier last month, the Arab Health Ministers' Council, which convened in Amman, was told that AIDS which appeared in the Arab World recently was introduced from outside the region and there was not a single case originating in any Arab country.

The delegates emphasised the need for a pan-Arab information network on blood transfusion, and called for more efforts to be made in the field of spreading awareness among the public concerning protection against the disease.

Head of the Health Ministry's Communicable Disease Department told the Jordan Times in an interview last January that there was special concern over the potential exposure to the virus by approximately 70,000 Jordanian students now living abroad, and nearly 350,000 Jordanian expatriates living in the region could also be exposed to AIDS.

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HINDAWI MEETS ENVOYS: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thounan Hindawi met separately in his office Tuesday with Tunisian, Indonesian, Austrian and Japanese ambassadors to Jordan. They discussed Jordan's cooperation with their countries in educational fields; according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The agency said that Hindawi later met with Pakistan's Ambassador to Jordan to discuss bilateral relations.

MESSAGE FROM UAE: Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thounan Hindawi Tuesday received a message from United Arab Emirates Education Minister Ahmad Al Tayer, who stressed his country's interest in bolstering and further supporting bilateral cooperation between ministries of education in both countries. Tayer also lauded the performance and dedication of Jordanians working in the Emirates.

TAE KWON DOO: Public Security Director Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali Tuesday presented certificates to police trainees, who have completed a tae kwon do training course, and gave awards and cups to the excelling students. The course was held at the Special Police Forces Command. The graduation celebration was attended by Majali's aides for administration, operations and planning and Commander of the Badia (desert) Police, in addition to a number of Public Security Department heads and Special Police Forces officers.

NEW NBC REPORTER: The American television network NBC has named Michel B. Silver as its correspondent in Jordan, instead of Rick Davis.

HADIDI HONORED: The Austrian Schallabourg County Government has awarded the Department of Antiquities Director General Adnan Hadidi the order of merit, in appreciation of his distinguished academic contributions to archaeological studies in Jordan and abroad.

BADRAN IN BAGHDAD: Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Tuesday met in Baghdad with Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary General Ibrahim Badran and discussed with him means of enhancing bilateral relations in the field of oil.

BELGIAN TOURISTS: A 177-member tourist group from Belgium arrived here Monday on a visit to Jordan and were welcomed by Ministry of Tourism officials and tourist and travel agents who organised the trip. Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni delegated his assistant Rafiq Lahham to greet the visitors and to present them with tokens of appreciation.

MURDERER TO HANG: A 47-year-old murderer has been sentenced to death by hanging by the criminal court for killing a 42-year-old man identified by the Al Dustour Arabic daily as A.M.A. The murder, it said, took place in Irbid in 1986 and the murderer, identified only as M.S.F. committed the crime.



PRINCE MOHAMMAD VISITS GHQ: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Tuesday paid two separate visits, one to the Armed Forces Headquarters, where he was briefed by its director Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali on the PSD plans and achievements, and inspected progress of work.

Balloons — A new way for sightseeing in Jordan

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — How does an exotic adventure in Jordan sound to you? Soon you can fly high over the ancient mountains of Wadi Rum and other parts of the Kingdom and look at a natural beauty from above, from a hot air balloon.

The person behind this daring voyage is Richard Branson, the Englishman who was the first man to cross the Atlantic in a hot air balloon — the Virgin Atlantic Flyer — last year.

Branson, who is in Amman for a few days on an invitation from Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, is here with two of his balloons, one of which is the size and shape of a Jumbo 747.

In an interview with the Jordan Times Branson said that he is here not only to teach King Hussein how to fly a balloon, but also to search for areas in the country where tourists would be flown over sites in Jordan.

"When I met Their Majesties in Britain, they invited me and my two balloons with me here to see the possibility of setting up exotic holidays to encourage tourism in Jordan," Branson told the Jordan Times.

He added that in the next few weeks he will try to find which areas in Jordan would be most suitable for flying and to see if the terrain is right. "Flying a balloon should only take place early in the morning or in the evening, and it can't be too windy."

Branson, 37, flew 30,000 feet over the Atlantic Ocean taking off from the state of Maine in the U.S. and landing in the sea just off Ireland, breaking the fastest record.

The Virgin Atlantic Flyer is 30 times bigger than any other balloon built and a Jumbo jet could fit inside.

"We expected to take five days to cross 6,480 kilometres of the ocean. But the winds were so strong, we had to fly the jet stream. The first time anyone has ever ridden the jet stream (30,000 feet high). Once we were there, we went at an incredible speed of 280 kilometres per hour, so we got to the other side in only 28

Jordan takes part in AACO talks in UAE

SHARJAH (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the two-day meetings of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) Programme Coordination Committee, currently held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

The committee will discuss issues pertaining to requirements of Arab airports and problems encountered by Arab airline companies at the Arab airports, with a view to provide the necessary facilities for Arab civil aviation.

Meanwhile in Damascus, commercial managers of the Arab airline companies, members to the AACO, Tuesday stressed the need to enhance inter-Arab cooperation in the field of air transport and to facilitate procedures and further enhance joint cooperation and coordination to compete with the world airline companies.

Concluding their two-day meetings here, the delegates adopted a number of recommendations on quotas, computer reservation and airport services, issuing of tickets and cards and accountancy procedures.

Ministry releases study on dampness in buildings

AMMAN (I.T.) — An engineer employed by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has prepared a comprehensive study on dampness in buildings, pointing out the inherent danger to property and health.

The study, prepared by Tawfiq Qatami, said dampness in buildings is bound to cause excessive fuel consumption for heating purposes.

It is also bound to serve as a catalyst in the interaction of sulphuric salts with cement, "which would lead to a general weakness in the concrete and the erosion of iron used to reinforce it," the study noted.

It said these two adverse elements eventually lead to premature deterioration of the building.

The study pointed the negative effect on the general appearance of buildings infected with dampness and said rising dampness causes rot and damage to plaster and paint on the walls, rendering them unfit for habitation.

The study clearly refers to poor design, ill construction, improper maintenance and poor building material as major factors inviting dampness to settle in buildings.

According to the study rain water collecting in pools on roofs lead to eventual water leakage.

Queen Noor opens vocational school in Mafraq

60 girls complete vocational training

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday attended the graduation of 60 girls, who have successfully completed training courses on sewing, typing, trico and adult education, organised by the women's federation branch in Mafraq.

At the end of the graduation, which was held at Mafraq Municipality's assembly hall, Queen Noor presented graduates with their certificates.

Earlier Tuesday Queen Noor opened Iman Bint Al Hussein Vocational School for girls, which

cost JD 250,000.

The school has 35 classrooms, and can accommodate 1,400 students in the academic, commercial, nursing branches of education, in addition to sewing and typing.

The Queen also opened Mafraq governorate schools exhibition, which was held at Mafraq girls secondary school.

The exhibition includes handicrafts, traditional clothes, plates, audio-visual materials, school laboratory equipment and embroideries.

Also Tuesday Queen Noor inaugurated a folklore exhibition, organised by the women's federation.

Queen Noor was accompanied on her visit by Mafraq governor and senior government officials.

Zarqa police arrest gang of robbers

ZARQA (J.T.) — Police in Zarqa have apprehended a three-member gang of robbers who had carried out an attempted robbery at a bank in Russeifa and had stolen electrical appliances, television and video sets, jewellery and food supplies from homes and stores in Zarqa and Amman areas.

A report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that the three thieves were apprehended by the police soon after their attempt to rob the bank last month.

It said a citizen reported that he had seen a man lying in the main Amman-Zarqa road. But by the time the police arrived the man had vanished leaving behind spots of blood both in the street and in the dividing island, the report pointed out.

Other traces were also found on glasses and the refrigerator in the bank's kitchenette which matched the fingerprints of the three robbers and provided sufficient evidence for charging them with the robbery, according to the paper.

The paper reported details of the attempted robbery and also the various items which the thieves had stolen from different homes and quoted the Director of the Police Department in Zarqa as saying that all items were returned to their original owners except for the food supplies which had since been consumed.

Irsheid briefed the newspaper reporter on the manner in which the attempted robbery happened and said that the three thieves had broken into the bank from the roof after removing bricks fencing off the building's ventilators.

The police also found evidence by matching traces of paint found on the blacksmith's tools with that of the bank's safe which the robbers had tried to open, fortunately without success, the report pointed out.

He said the three robbers then gave up the attempt and left the bank after staying inside for 25 hours benefiting from the Friday weekly holiday.

Irsheid said that the attempted robbery took place Thursday night March 31 and the robbers left the scene of their crime late Friday, April 1.

He paid tribute to the responsible citizen who had reported the man lying on the side of the road because it was due to that report, he said, that the police were able to discover the robbers and put an end to their criminal actions.

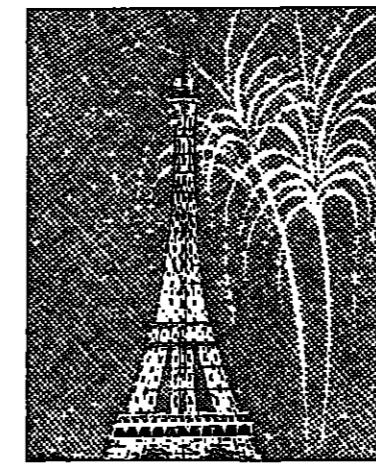
Fuel truck overturns

AMMAN (J.T.) — a fuel tanker truck, loaded with some 45,000 litres of gasoline, overturned and landed on its side near the Seventh Circle on Jabal Amman Monday, injuring the driver but causing no other casualties.

A report in Al Dustour Arabic daily said the driver had lost

AMMAN-LONDON THE PARIS CONNECTION.

Going to London? On a tight schedule? Fly Air France and you can get from Amman to the heart of London via Paris in less than 7 hours. Air France's connections to London City Airport, a mere 15-minute taxi ride from the City, are of particular interest to businessmen with no time to waste. For example, if you take Air France's Airbus from Amman, the Tuesday flight leaves at 1.30 am, stops at Charles de Gaulle Express Terminal 2 and arrives at London City Airport at 8.10 am. The Thursday and Sunday flights leave Amman at 10 am and arrive at 6.10 pm. If your schedule demands flexibility, it's reassuring to know that Air France offers 250 weekly flights between Paris and London. And that Air France is the only airline to have flights from Paris to all four London airports. To minimize your travel time and maximise your travel possibilities, plan your next trip to London via Paris with Air France.



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Jordan Times

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Good signs

WE see several encouraging signs that the private sector in Jordan has started to play a more dynamic and appropriate role in the economic growth of the country, while the government seems to be moving towards a strategy characterised by a more logical balance between the private and the public sectors. The investment mission to Japan is an example of the kind of public/private sector cooperation which we think is appropriate for Jordan. The government took the lead in organising the mission to Japan, while the private sector took the hint and sent a delegation of serious businessmen and women who recognised the vast potential for doing business with Japan. It is noteworthy that not only did some private companies go to Japan, but also that some private sector business associations, such as the Chamber of Industry, participated in the effort. We see the same thing happening with the Chamber of Industry and the Chamber of Commerce's involvement in efforts to resolve the problem that has arisen over government-backed exports to Iraq. A third case in point is the investment mission that will travel to the United States later this month, in which the private sector figures very prominently.

The whole effort on privatisation of public corporations is also indicative of healthy trend, which our country is well placed to explore. The national airline, the bus company and the telecommunications corporation are the first three entities being considered for privatisation, though there are scores of others that make good candidates.

The practical fact of the matter is that the government does not have the financial or human resources, or the institutional compulsion, or the managerial depth, to keep assuming responsibility for routine tasks that are clearly more efficiently assumed by the private sector. It is the right moment, in a regional and domestic context of slower economic growth and more scarce financial resources, to make the transition from a state of overt and deep government control of many aspects of the economy to a state of more private sector involvement within a regulatory and quality control framework in government hands. The pattern that has worked well in Jordan has always seen the government providing the legal and investment environment in which the private sector can do its work, or the government taking the lead in launching large projects which are beyond the financial reach of the private sector alone. That such a pattern is being reassessed, with the private sector playing its appropriate role, strikes us as a good thing, for which both the government and the private sector should be commended.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Exemplary achievements

JORDAN has been able in four decades to make successful achievements considered exemplary for other countries with similar resources and conditions, despite its involvement in a national problem and its responsibilities in guarding the longest confrontation lines with the Israeli enemy. This was reaffirmed by King Hussein at an iftar banquet in Karak on Sunday. The King reminded his audience of the Kingdom's endeavours over the past years and the challenges it had been able to overcome in the course of struggle to achieve better life for its citizens. In contrast, the Israeli enemy had been flooded with all forms of economic and financial assistance from many sources throughout the past 40 years. But Jordan's achievements came as a result of the endeavours of its own people and the excellent exploitation of the few and limited available resources under its disposal. More importantly, the citizens of this country are more determined than ever before to pursue the work and the struggle for a better and more prosperous future and to overcome future challenges. A quick study of the Jordanian achievements gives cause for pride for every one in this country and stands out as an ideal accomplishment for other Arab countries. Nothing could have been achieved without the strong sense of national belonging and without the translation of the principles and the aims of the Great Arab Revolt into real action. This sense of belonging and this loyalty will no doubt serve as the driving force behind any other achievements in the future.

Al Dustour: Same destiny, future

KING Hussein reviewed with the citizens of Karak on Sunday the struggle and the achievements of our grandfathers and the founders of the Kingdom. He spoke about the sacrifices which these pioneers offered in defence of the Palestinian people's rights. The monarch reminded his countrymen of the efforts of the Jordanian Armed Forces, who in true commitment to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, continue to shield the nation from external danger. These Armed Forces he said, guard the longest confrontation lines with the Israeli enemy and are ready to defend the homeland. Jordan continues to back the Palestinian people under Israeli rule and extend all forms of assistance to them in line with these commitments and as a national duty. Jordan feels that it shares the same destiny and the same future with the Palestinian brothers and with the Iraqi people and all the Arabs. For this reason this country has been firm in its stand in support of the Iraqi people in the face of the Iranian aggression over the past eight years. The King told his audience that he preferred death to betraying the trust which he inherited from his grandfathers and the founders of the Kingdom and he pledged to do all he can with the support of his people and his nation to re-establish justice and regain the usurped lands. But, as the King pointed out, nothing can be achieved without a unity of ranks and true determination to confront the challenges and the dangers.

Sawt Al Shaab: Impressive history

KING Hussein has been presenting facts about Jordan and its achievements over the past 40 years and saying that they came as a result of the people's endeavours and their determination to work for a better future. Whoever follows up the Kingdom's history and its developments over the past years will realise the wise directions of King Hussein whose keenness on providing means for development is obvious and who strives to serve his countrymen and the causes of the Arab Nation at large. Whoever follows the past events in the Arab World can realise the relentless endeavours of the leader of this country who strives to achieve justice, unity for the Arabs and freedom for all, in line with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.

Punjab crackdowns spurs more Sikh separatist violence

By Robert Mahoney
Reuters

CHANDIGARH, India — Three years ago the question of India losing the war against Sikh separatists was unthinkable. Now it is asked continuously in Punjab by critics who say Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's policies have played into the hands of the extremists.

The more paramilitary troops the 43-year-old leader throws against the separatists in the northern India state, the more killings take place.

"This situation has been created by the wrong policies of the central government," he told Reuters.

"Since we were dismissed, extremist killings have gone up fivefold and they have obtained AK47 (rifles) and rocket launchers," he said.

Former police chief Julio Ribeiro's policy of matching the extremists "bullet for bullet" had backfired, Balwant Singh said.

"Our policy was to bring the boys (gunmen) back into the mainstream," he said.

Ribeiro, who was made Ray's chief adviser last month after heading the Punjab police since March, 1986, makes no excuses for the bullet for bullet approach.

"Is there any alternative to it? I

don't see any country in the world having a different policy towards men who are killing innocent people," Ribeiro said in an interview.

"This is a separatist war and will last a long time," he said.

But Ribeiro no longer talks about breaking the back of the separatists by eliminating the hundred or so "hardcore terrorists" he said he was out to capture in 1986.

For every suspected guerrilla killed or captured, a new one seems to take his place.

Intelligence and police sources admit the extremists have little difficulty in finding recruits.

They say the four main extremist groups have become better organised and equipped receiving arms and training in Pakistan. Islamabad denies the charge.

The groups are not thought to have links with foreign terrorist organisations but they do receive money and support from militants in Britain, the United States and Canada, the sources said.

With these funds, and money from robbing banks, the extremists have acquired semi-automatic AK47s, which they used in massacres on buses and in crowded bazaars, they said.

"This violence will go on for years... the government will not give in and the terrorists will not give in," Ribeiro said.

The response from New Delhi has been to administer more of the same harsh medicine.

One year ago Gandhi dismissed Punjab's moderate Akali Dal Party state government for failing to stop the killings. He appointed Governor Siddhartha Shankar Ray to rule the state directly on behalf of Delhi.

Since then the number of killings has rocketed, prompting Gandhi to extend direct rule and arm himself with the power to declare an emergency in the state a year ago.

"Just because the situation is a little more serious it does not mean our policy isn't working," Ray said.

"In fact, it is because the policy is working that the situation has got worse," he said in an interview.

He said the extremists were desperately trying to create a rift between Hindus and the majority Sikhs in the state by stepping up the murder of innocent people.

That logic is lost on Sikh moderates like Balwant Singh, a minister in the dismissed government.

Weil over 800 people have died so far this year in the worse upsurge of violence since a handful of gunmen began their fight for a Sikh homeland called Khalistan in the early 1980s. Last year, some 1,230 were killed in the violence.

Parts of the prosperous farming state are now war zones with homes abandoned along the Pakistani border where the authorities have started to build a fence to prevent men and arms crossing into India.

"A year of bullet for bullet has done nothing but strengthen the extremists and deepen the sense of alienation of the Sikh community. Those demanding Khalisatn or nothing have the upper hand among the militants, that was not so a year ago."

Armed militants have reoccupied the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the golden temple in Amritsar, from which the Indian army drove them with tanks in June, 1984.

More than 70,000 police and paramilitary troopers are now pitted against 300 to 400 extremists who operate mainly along the border. Thousands of Hindus have left their villages there this year for the safety of neighbouring Hindu-majority states.

Sikhs too have fled border areas to comparative safety in the towns. Many say they fear the police as much as the extremists.

Police have arrested thousands of young Sikhs on suspicion of having separatist links and Sikh leaders have publicly accused the police of killing Sikhs in custody.

Sikh politicians say heavy-handed policing is driving youngsters into the extremists' arms and have pleaded with Gandhi to stop it.

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OPEN DEFiance: Palestinian women defy Israeli soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip. Arbitrary measures, including summary detentions, beatings and brutal treatment, imposed by the Israeli army have only inflamed the Palestinian national spirit and escalated the Palestinian uprising which entered the sixth month this week.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Riyadh studies Tehran's request

RIYADH (AP) — The Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry is studying a request by Iran that Turkey be allowed to look after Iranian interests in the kingdom, Arab diplomatic sources said Tuesday. Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties with Iran last week, when the Riyadh government accused Tehran of terrorism and intimidation against the kingdom and gunboat attacks on Saudi commercial shipping in the Gulf sea lanes. Turkey has been looking after Iranian interests in Iraq, while doing the same for Iraq in Iran. The diplomatic sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Iran had requested that Turkey represent Iranian interests in Saudi Arabia. Riyadh's response to the Iranian request is expected to be favourable, mainly in view of the cordial relations between Saudi Arabia and Turkey, diplomatic sources said.

Kuwait seizes 2,000 cases of whisky

KUWAIT (R) — Police have arrested a gang trying to smuggle 2,000 cases of whisky with a street value of nearly \$2 million into Kuwait, Al Qabas newspaper reported Tuesday. Alcohol is banned in Kuwait where a bottle of whisky sells on the black market for as much as 40 dinars (\$145).

Cyprus detains Lebanese with gun

LARNACA (R) — A Lebanese arrested at Larnaca airport with a gun hidden in a radio-cassette player was remanded in custody pending investigation Tuesday. Police told Larnaca district court that Hassan Mousa, 22, had admitted coming to Cyprus to commit a crime. Airport security guards found a gun, a silencer and two magazines in an X-ray check of luggage on a Middle East Airlines (MEA) flight from Beirut Monday. The court ordered that Mousa be held in custody for eight days while police probe

his connections on the island.

Carpet smugglers arrested in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Members of an ad-hoc Iranian police force have seized from smugglers 500 silk-woven Persian carpets worth millions of dollars, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. The official agency, monitored in Cyprus, said men from the Islamic Komiteh also arrested the five smugglers as they were taking the carpets to a "safe house" in Damavand near Tehran. It said many of the carpets of display were as much as 300 years old. Such carpets often increase in value with age. The smugglers intended to take the carpets to Arab states in the Gulf region and also to Turkey. The agency said the Komiteh, which is an ad-hoc network of Islamic revolutionary committees that functions as an unofficial police force in many towns, handled the smugglers over to the government's Islamic courts for trial. Iran exported 12,000 tons of hand-woven carpets last year in the official market, but many also were shipped to foreign countries illegally by smugglers, the government announced recently. In the early years of the Gulf war, carpet exports were banned on grounds that carpets were a part of the nation's store of wealth, but this led to a recession in the industry. As the war dragged on, and as oil prices slumped, the government changed course and again allowed carpets to be exported but only under strict regulations.

Herzog sworn in for second term

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli President Chaim Herzog was sworn in for a second five-year term Monday. In an inaugural speech to parliament, the Irish-born Herzog, 69, urged Israelis to preserve the "democratic nature" of their society and fight racism and hatred between Arabs and Jews. The Israeli presidency is a largely ceremonial position.

Jordan proposes pan-Arab rapid deployment force

(Continued from page 1)

the "summit institution" is separate from the Arab League, "but Jordan would not stipulate Egypt's attendance as a condition for participating in the summit."

However, he said, the subject of Egypt's attendance at the summit should be discussed with Arab leaders before agreement could be reached on the summit.

"Egypt is part of the Arab World and its participation in such conferences is required to safeguard the unity of the Arab World," the King noted.

However, Jordan has welcomed the idea of the summit, which would focus attention on the Palestine problem and means of supporting the Arab people of Palestine under Israeli rule," the King said.

Supervisors' position

Replies to other questions, the King said:

"For a long time I have not been happy about the consensus between the extreme right in the U.S. and Israel but Jordan will have to pursue the dialogue with the United States administration and with other nations, specially the permanent members of the

U.N. Security Council.

"We do not have any problem in dealing on this question with the Soviet Union, China and the European countries and also the rest of the world.

"The problem lies in Israel and its intransigence and also the continued U.S. support for Israel's negative attitude towards the American initiative."

"The Soviet Union adopts a stand almost identical to the view of the Arab Nation completely unlike the U.S. Since 1967, the U.S. stand has shown a regressive attitude. Nonetheless, Jordan will maintain the dialogue with Washington and will continue to encourage a dialogue among the U.N. Security Council members which could persuade the U.S. to take a more realistic stand that would contribute favourably towards a solution and the convening of an international conference. Such a conference is seen by the Arabs as the only means for achieving a peaceful settlement that can be guaranteed by the Security Council."

Arab coordination

"Jordan continues the process of coordinating Arab positions,

liberation."

"We had been under the impression that the PLO rejects the idea of a joint delegation but we learned later that the PLO leadership had been in contact with Egypt seeking a joint PLO-Egyptian delegation to the conference. Egypt declined to accept the proposal as it felt that would undermine the ongoing coordination among Syria, Jordan and Egypt on this question.

"What we propose is to send a joint delegation with the Jordanians and the Palestinians as separate entities under one umbrella with the Jordanians negotiating over Israeli-occupied territory in the East Bank while the Palestinians will deal with the West Bank. In fact, there are other issues to be discussed at such a conference which are of concern to Jordan, like the water issues which are of concern to Arab countries surrounding Israel..."

"The Palestinians have all the right to determine their own future once the land is liberated. Jordan will continue to extend assistance and support for the Palestinian people to regain their rights and their homeland..."

Beirut militias fortify positions

(Continued from page 1)

friendly countries were also informed, he added.

Arafat said the PLO had helped save American lives several times.

Arafat said:

"Our own reading of the document reveals the U.S. administration is planning, in full cooperation with the Israelis, to conduct a crusade of terrorist attacks and then to blame the PLO for them."

"These attacks will then be used to justify the assassination of PLO leaders."

Arafat strongly denied that the PLO was planning any such acts, saying the PLO was committed to "struggle against the Israeli occupation in accordance with international laws and norms."

In Washington, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said Tuesday the United States had received reports that the PLO might target Americans for attack.

Murphy told a congressional hearing that Washington had received reports of such threats against U.S. citizens following Abu Jihad's assassination.

ing the radicals a fresh advantage. An Amal official confirmed that "Amal members with fundamentalist affiliations" defected to Hezbollah.

Residents ventured out of dark, damp shelters into the rubble-strewn streets of the southern suburbs to inspect houses and shops damaged in four days of bitter artillery, tank, mortar, rocket and machinegun fire.

"Security committees and ceasefires are like sedatives. They will not solve the conflict," said Aiman, commander of an Amal position in Ghobeiri as he stood behind sandbags with scores of bearded fighters in military fatigues.

"If Hezbollah men don't withdraw from our positions, the fighting will flare again," said Akram, an Amal military official in Ghobeiri.

"This battle will not end with a truce. We want our rights to have bases and influence here," a Hezbollah fighter said.

Hezbollah took control of at least seven Amal positions in the fighting. Security sources told Reuters an unknown number of Amal militiamen manning five of them defected to Hezbollah, giving

Kuwait to try 5 on terrorism charges; 3 said held for blasts

KUWAIT (AP) — Three persons have been arrested in connection with recent bomb explosions, a newspaper reported Tuesday, and judicial authorities announced that five others held on terrorism charges will go on trial June 4.

The government did not confirm the arrests reported by the daily Al Watan which, quoting no sources, identified the detainees as two nationals of a non-neighboring Arab state and an Iranian.

It said they were being interrogated "on charges of planting explosives" at the offices of Saudi, the Saudi Arabian national airline April 27 and the Al Dawliya complex where the American company Avis Rent-a-Car was targeted May 7.

The blasts have been blamed by Kuwaiti newspapers on pro-Iranian elements, pointing to the minority in Kuwait who belong to the same Shi'ite sect that is pre-

dominant in Iran.

Kuwait's state security court president announced he has fixed June 4 for the trial of five persons accused of terrorist acts within the country including an attempt to assassinate security personnel, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

One of the five was still at large and would be tried in absentia, said the agency.

Details given by the president, Mohammad Al Banai, indicated it was a case separate from the string of bombings that have come to light in the country over the years.

Three of the five belonged to one family, with four carrying

Kuwaiti nationality while the nationality of the fifth who was at large was still unknown, KUNA reported.

The names given were Ibrahim Abbas Jaafar Zenil, Suleiman Abbas Jaafar Zenil, Mohammad Ibrahim Abbas Jaafar and Ahmad Hussein Kamis. The fugitive was identified as Hassan Ibrahim Hussein.

The agency report said that the five were accused of planning to assassinate some personnel of the state security department's general administration, preparing explosives, using explosives at public installations with intent to kill employees, and using force against officers, of the central jailhouse.

They were also accused of usurping state property and possession of a mortar-firing weapon. The timing of the arrests and alleged offences was not revealed.

One newspaper, Al Anbaa, recently urged the government to withdraw Kuwaiti nationality from Shi'ites and deport them if it were determined to bear allegiance to Iran.

Kuwait has been target of several similar blasts in downtown Kuwait as well as at its vital oil installations for which several Shi'ites have been put on trial and convicted.

Whitehead in Algiers

ALGIERS (AP) — A senior U.S. diplomat began a two-day visit to Algeria Tuesday during which he will seek information about American hostages held in Lebanon.

Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead will also discuss with Algerian leaders American efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

Whitehead's week-long trip to Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco comes less than a month before a special Arab summit in Algiers to discuss the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Before leaving Washington, Whitehead said: "We'll be talking, particularly to the Algerians, about the hostage situation, to determine if there is anything they know about our American hostages still in captivity and to see if there's any role that they can play."

Algeria has a long history of successful international mediation, including acting as a broker in securing the 1981 release of 52 American hostages held by Iran at the U.S. embassy in Tehran for more than a year.

Whitehead also will be asking Algeria to cooperate with the United States in apprehending the hijackers of a Kuwaiti jetliner and flew it to Algiers, killing two hostages along the way.

Algeria mediated an end to the 16-day ordeal, freeing the 31 hostages and letting the hijackers go free. The United States still does not know whether the hijackers were killed. Frenchmen said he died of illness, probably cancer.

Whitehead said Anderson's morale was high, and he frequently praised the journalists' courage. He said Anderson exercises continuously, walking round and round in his cell to keep fit.

Fontaine said he began teaching Anderson French, and he has learned to read it rather well. Anderson, in turn, taught Fontaine English.

Whitehead softened the criticism, saying the United States "had no basis to criticize in any severe way" Algeria's handling of the hijacking.

He said the Algerians had to balance the desire to catch the hijackers with concern for the safety of the hostages.

"It was a difficult job," he said.

Discussing his planned talks in Tunisia, Whitehead said he would make it clear to authorities there that the United States did not have any role in last month's assassination of Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad).

Abu Jihad, deputy military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), is believed to have been killed by Israeli agents.

Marble cosmetic jars, gold ornaments and vases were also discovered in the tomb which is decorated in cuneiform script reading: "The place of King Ashur Nasir Pal, King of all, King of Ashur."

Whitehead said Tunisia is "very pleased" that the United States did not veto a U.N. resolution condemning the assassination.

2,800-year-old treasure unearthed in Iraqi city

BAGHDAD (R) — A 2,800-year-old treasure trove has been discovered by archaeologists excavating a tomb in the ancient Iraqi city of Nimrud, the English-language newspaper Baghdad Observer said Tuesday.

At issue is whether Reagan will consider either pretrial or post-trial pardons of his former National Security Adviser John Poindexter, Oliver North, a former National Security Council staffer, retired air force Major-General Richard V. Secord and his business partner, Albert Hakim.

The four are charged with conspiring to illegally divert profits from clandestine U.S.-Iran arms sales to the Nicaraguan rebels.

The U.S. constitution gives the president sweeping pardon powers amounting to a legal grant of absolute.

Said told the Observer the treasure was found in a tomb at the northern palace of Assyrian King Ashur Nasir Pal II, who ruled from 883 to 859 B.C.

The newspaper quoted other archaeologists as saying the treasure probably belonged to a

woman in the king's entourage, whose skeleton was found in the tomb.

Archaeologists said gold chains decorated with bells, bracelets studded with precious stones and one of 11 rows of gold beads, were unearthed.

They said the items showed the great skill of Assyrian craftsmen, citing a bracelet with a meticulously crafted five by six centimetres golden pomegranate to which two smaller pomegranates were attached.

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Kuwaiti banks show modest recovery

KUWAIT (R) — A government rescue scheme nursed Kuwaiti banks to a modest recovery last year despite an escalation in the Iran-Iraq war and lingering recession caused by falling oil income.

Bankers and officials in the northern Gulf state say they are nearing the end of a clean-up of bad debt that has sapped bank profits since the 1982 collapse in world oil prices and crash of the world "Souk Al Manakh" stock market.

"The problem of Al Manakh is 95 per cent behind us," said Saleh Al Falah, general manager of Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East. "This will be the year we can look to the future."

The central bank puts non-performing loans at a huge 2.5 billion dinars, the equivalent of \$9 billion and more than half the total outstanding credits to the private sector.

Much of it stems from Manakh, an unofficial stock exchange that collapsed amid wild speculation based on posted-date cheques.

A central bank bail-out unique in the Gulf has pumped between 500 and 600 million dinars (\$1.8 to \$2.2 billion) in low-interest and

interest-free deposits into banks unable to meet required loan loss provisions, bankers said.

The funds are linked to banks' progress in rescheduling debts over terms of up to 15 years.

"We're planning for the bot-

tom line (this year) to be better than 1987," he said.

Net profits at Gulf Bank, the second largest after National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), shot up 61 per cent last year to 7.1 million dinars (\$26 million).

Gulf Bank, the only bank to cover

loan loss provisions without government help, declared net profit of 26.7 million dinars (\$9.7 million) and tucked away an equal amount into hidden reserves, bankers said. Declared profits were 5.1 per cent higher than in 1986.

Showing new-found confidence, some of the worst-hit banks announced cash dividends for the first time since 1984.

One of them, Burgan Bank, distributed its first cash dividend since 1980, when the outbreak of the Gulf war snuffed out Kuwait's lucrative re-export trade with Iran and Iraq.

Another, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, recently moved into a stunning new 18-storey headquarters overlooking the Gulf.

"I think now we have reached

the bottom. If any way, it's going to be up. How strongly is anyone's guess," Gulf Bank General Manager Yousef Al Awadi told Reuters.

He said he hoped his bank's biggest debt settlements would be finalised by the end of June. Cases for which there was no hope of recovery would be written off to the extent possible.

"We're planning for the bottom line (this year) to be better than 1987," he said.

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loan loss provisions without government help, declared net profit of 26.7 million dinars (\$9.7 million) and tucked away an equal amount into hidden reserves, bankers said. Declared profits were 5.1 per cent higher than in 1986.

No capital flight

Escalation of the war has had a negative impact on business confidence but has not led to a much-feared outflow of funds. "One would expect because of

tional Settlements.

"I would not say we are talking about the (immediate) danger of inflation," another official said, "but we have a high level of liquidity growth which can motivate inflation."

Many central banks opened the money sluices after last October's stock market crash, priming their economies with extra injections of cash. Now they are increasing concerned the excess liquidity could stoke inflationary pressure.

"People now see inflation as a

possible feature on the scene in contrast to the possibility of recession, which was seen as a danger six months ago," one central banker said.

But the officials said there was little talk of adjusting interest rates or concern about the recent rise in long-term U.S. rates.

"We are in an intermediate situation," one central banker said. "The feeling is that interest rates are stable. We do not know if that is temporary or whether there will be a turnaround."

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Top Jordanian officials look into stimulating trade, industry

Aggressive advertising

Banks advertise aggressively on television for a share of the growing consumer loan market, which surged after an interest rate cut in March 1987.

Private residential construction appears to be undergoing a mini-boom, also spurred by lower interest rates. Overall loans to the private sector rose seven per cent during 1987 to 4.6 billion dinars (\$17 billion).

Government treasury bills and bonds launched last November to finance the state budget deficit have proved attractive new assets that also help banks manage cash flows.

NBK, which already has a robust international network, hopes to expand business in the Gulf outside Kuwait among top institutional clients.

But competition will be severe in a country of 1.7 million people often described as overbanked.

"It's going to be very tough. The cake is smaller now. You don't see overall demand in the economy increasing... this of course will limit domestic lending opportunities," Awadi said.

The council also examined a number of measures that would help preserve traditional markets for Jordanian products and open new markets for such goods as well as steps to be taken for organising export operations in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and Jordanian chambers of industry and commerce.

All facilities to be given in this regard would benefit national products originating in the Kingdom, according to a statement following the meeting.

Central Bank Governor Hussein Al Qasem briefed the council on the monetary policy in Jordan, and the existing cooperation between the Central Bank of Jordan and local banks with regard to foreign currency reserves and the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar against major currencies.

The council stressed that foreign currency reserves at the central bank were sound and in a position enabling the Kingdom to meet its external commitments and preserve the national economic credibility.

It also voiced its total confidence in the Jordanian dinar and its stable rate of exchange, despite the high degree of fluctuations among foreign currencies.

The statement said that the council, which had been holding

meetings over the past few days, plans to hold more sessions in the coming days to debate further aspects of the Kingdom's economic strategies.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for May 10, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	309766	JD 400505	272
Top three companies:			
Arab Bank Ltd.	790	JD 90273	10
Petra Bank	27500	JD 56375	1
National Cable and Wire			
Manufacturing	43090	JD 41822	21
Parallel market:	52964	JD 24800	—
Development bonds:	30	324	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8825/35	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2375/85	Canadian dollar
	1.6798/6803	Deutschmarks
	1.8830/35	Dutch guilders
	1.3980/90	Swiss francs
	35.11/14	Belgian francs
	5.6930/60	French francs
	1246/1249	Italian lire
	124.51/61	Japanese yen
	5.8715/45	Swedish crowns
	6.1510/40	Norwegian crowns
	6.4710/40	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	446.85/447.35	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices sank to their lowest levels for six weeks on thin trading volume. The All-Ordinaries Index dropped 7.8 to 1,399.3.

TOKYO — Prices rose on speculative buying and bargain-hunting after three days of losses. But Wall Street's weakness kept some investors sidelined. The Nikkei Index gained 147.95 to 27,412.25.

HONG KONG — The market was weaker despite some late buying support. One broker said there was little incentive to enter the market. The Hang Seng Index lost 21.01 to 2,563.02.

SINGAPORE — Prices were marginally lower across the board on lack of buying interest in lethargic trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index was down 5.13 at 966.77.

BOMBAY — Strong speculative and institutional demand pushed up shares sharply on a broad front. Brokers said the recovery was sparked by fresh tax relief for the corporate sector two weeks ago.

FRANKFURT — Prices fell further, despite good corporate news, as fears of higher world interest rates continued to sap confidence. The Commerzbank Index, calculated at mid-session, lost 1.6 to 1,310.4.

ZURICH — The market edged lower in quiet trading. Banks were mixed but industrials were mostly down. The All-Share Swiss Index slipped 3.4 to 802.1.

PARIS — Prices were lower, reversing gains after President Mitterrand's re-election. Dealers said the market was consolidating. The 50-share Bourse Indicator declined by 1.07 per cent.

LONDON — Prices remained weak but recovered from their lowest levels after Wall Street's firm opening. At 1430 GMT, the FTSE 100 share index was down 6.2 at 1,788.7.

NEW YORK — Stocks were higher after an early surge on announcements by major brokerage firms that they would end certain futures-related arbitrage trading. The Dow gained 15 to 2,012.

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Queens official tight-lipped over McEnroe ban

LONDON (AP) — A hush of anticipation, tinged with a little apprehension, is hanging over an exclusive tennis club in a corner of West London.

John Patrick McEnroe may be coming back.

"It's a very delicate situation, my friend," said Clive Bernstein, tournament director of the \$250,000 Queens Club Grass Court Championships.

Queens Club is the main warm-up for Wimbledon and is frequently won by the player who goes on to take the men's singles crown in the oldest tennis, Grand Slam events.

The 102-year-old club was the scene of one of McEnroe's most publicized tantrums the last time he played there, three years ago.

"McEnroe is still a very good player but if he wants to play here, the tournament committee will have to decide," Bernstein said Monday.

In 1985, McEnroe walked out of Queens Club after being accused of assaulting a group of women members.

They said the New Yorker had used abusive language when asked to vacate a court where he was practicing. McEnroe was asked to give up his honorary membership of the club, or be expelled.

He did what club members termed "the honourable thing" and quit.

Two weeks later at Wimbledon, the top-seeded McEnroe was upset in the quarterfinals by Kevin Curren, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

He has not returned to Queens or Wimbledon since.

Although his name does not figure in the main draw at this year's Queens Club tournament, speculation has swirled for weeks that McEnroe will ask for a wild card.

The 29-year-old left-hander, now in the middle of a comeback after a series of voluntary and injury related breaks from the sport, says he wants to try for a fourth singles title at Wimbledon, which takes place June 20-July 3.

No other tournament can provide better preparation for that than Queens, with its lush green courts, low bounce, sometimes slippery surface, and an atmosphere of refinement and elegance.

Bernstein said McEnroe had not yet indicated whether he would be asking to come back for the June 12 tournament.

"He will have to apply before I have given them (the wild cards) all away," said Bernstein, who has five wild cards available, two of which must go to British players. "Obviously I like to hang on to my wild cards for as long as possible."

Bernstein said he had received "five or six" applications for the three available international wild cards, but refused to identify the players involved.

He said McEnroe's acceptance into the draw would not be a foregone conclusion if the American applies to play.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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AGAINST ALE-ODDS

By Charles North-South vulnerability. South deals.

NORTH

♦ A 7 6

♦ J 10 6 5

♦ J 4

♦ Q 8 7 3

WEST **EAST**

♦ K Q J 9 5 3 2 ♠ 10 4

♦ 3 ♠ 7

♦ K 9 ♠ 8 7 6 3 2

♦ 6 4 2 ♠ 3 10 5

SOUTH

♦ 8

♦ A K 9 8 2

♦ Q A Q 10 5

♦ A K 9

The bidding:

South: West: North: East

1 ♠ 4 ♠ 5 ♠ Pass

6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

"Eight even, nine never" is a perfectly sound axiom if you know nothing else about the distribution of the hands. Mathematically, if you have nine cards in the suit missing the queen, the odds favoring the drop is 57 percent. But those odds change when you know one player has a long suit.

West's pre-emptive bid of four spades was a good tactic at this vulnerability. It forced North-South to guess at a high level. Here, though, it boomeranged, for not only did it drive North-South to a slam they might not have bid under their own steam, but it persuaded declarer to a result.

Here, however, West was marked with a seven-card spade suit for his pre-empt, so he had no more than six unknown cards. East, on the other hand, had started with no more than two spades, so he had 11 unknown cards. Even a poor mathematician knows that, if you take 17 random items and give six to one person and 11 to another, the odds on either one having a specific item must be greatly in favor of the person who holds the more goodies. Applying that to the hand suit, East was a strong favorite to hold the queen of hearts, so the finesse became the percentage play.

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Declarer won the opening spade lead in dummy and elected to test diamonds by running the jack. That lost, and West returned a spade, ruffed in the closed hand. Declarer cashed one high trump and, with virtually no time out for thinking, crossed to the queen of clubs and ran the table's other red jack. When that held, declarer drew the last trump and claimed the balance for a most satisfying result.

Had there been no intervening bidding, declarer would almost surely have gone down in his slam.

The percentage play would have been to try to drop the queen of trumps, and declarer would have lost a trick in each red suit as a result.

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U.S. Senate delays INF debate

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Senate leaders have delayed debate on the new U.S.-Soviet intermediate missile treaty because of unresolved questions about U.S. inspection rights in the Soviet Union.

Democratic leader Robert Byrd had tentatively scheduled a debate Wednesday. But after he and other leading senators held talks with senior administration officials it was announced Monday that debate had been postponed indefinitely.

It could still start by the end of the week if the problems are resolved.

President Ronald Reagan's national security adviser, Lieutenant General Colin Powell, indicated the decision was satisfactory.

Earlier treaty negotiator Maynard Gitterman explained the situation in a closed-door meeting of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Afterwards, Democrat David Boren of Oklahoma and Republi-

can William Cohen of Maine, the committee's chairman and vice chairman respectively, said they would recommend delaying the treaty debate.

Byrd said earlier on the Senate floor that a Wednesday start to debate on the intermediate nuclear forces treaty (INF) depended on whether the inspection problem was settled.

Byrd told reporters that even after the treaty has been taken up by the Senate, work on it would have to stop if Reagan vetoed a trade bill as he has threatened and the Senate moved to override his veto.

His comment appeared to be a warning to Reagan that a veto of the trade bill could delay Senate action on the treaty until after his summit meeting in Moscow with

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the end of the month.

"It's obvious that not only have the problems which had surfaced earlier not been resolved but that some new problems have arisen," Byrd said.

"I think it behoves the Soviets to come forward with solutions and permit the Senate to open the debate with our eyes open," Byrd said.

The three Senate committees that have been evaluating the treaty — armed services, foreign relations and intelligence — will continue to monitor the situation, and Byrd said he would not schedule ratification debate until all three committees report that all outstanding, serious issues have been resolved satisfactorily.

The INF treaty requires the elimination of all U.S. and Soviet missiles with a range of between 500 to 5,000 kilometres worldwide.

The verification dispute centre mostly on access of U.S. monitors

to Soviet missile plants and sites. The Soviets are trying to restrict inspection of missile containers to those large enough to carry an entire rocket. The United States wants the right to examine smaller containers that could carry a missile stage.

"As we have always said, the treaty stands on its own merits," he said.

Sen. Sam Nunn, the Democratic chairman of the Armed Services Committee, rejected criticism that the Senate may be "foot dragging" on the treaty.

Secondly, a U.S. official said, the Soviets are trying to put parts of areas designated for inspection off-limits.

The State Department last month asked the Soviets for an explanation.

Ambassador Yuri V. Dubinin delivered Moscow's reply to the department Sunday night. State Department officials then briefed the Senate Intelligence Committee Monday.

"We don't consider the Soviet response to our questions fully satisfactory," said an official who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity. "There's more work to be done."

At the White House, Deputy Press Secretary Roman Popadiuk

said the White House would have no comment on the treaty dispute.

"As we have always said, the treaty stands on its own merits," he said.

Sen. Sam Nunn, the Democratic chairman of the Armed Services Committee, rejected criticism that the Senate may be "foot dragging" on the treaty.

"I can't think of anything worse than to have the treaty rushed through the Senate and then find out a week or two later that there's a major problem," he said.

Dubin also said that if the president vetoes the omnibus trade bill passed by Congress two weeks ago it could hold up ratification of the INF treaty.

He stopped short of any specific threat to hold the pact hostage to a presidential signature on the trade bill. But he said an effort to override a presidential veto could shoulder aside floor debate on the treaty.

Troops open fire in troubled Karachi area

KARACHI (R) — Troops fired on crowds in an area of Karachi under curfew and police arrested rioters and seized arms in Pakistan's biggest city, where 35 people have been killed in three days of fighting between ethnic groups.

Troops said trouble broke out in the early hours of Tuesday in one of 14 areas placed under curfew in an attempt to contain clashes between Pashtuns from north-western Pakistan and Mohajirs.

Groups on both sides threw up roadblocks and fired at police and firemen trying to reach blazes, police said.

They said supporting troops fired back at one crowd, wounding eight people, after teargas failed to break up the gathering.

Three people who were wounded over the past few days died in hospital Tuesday bring the death toll to 35 for the last three days, and to 49 since May 1, when rioting broke out. Police arrested at least 200 people Monday.

Industrialist Khalil Ahmad Nanitalwala said the troubles in the country's biggest port and industrial centre were hurting the whole country.

many of them smuggled out of neighbouring Afghanistan.

Residents of curfew areas said there was a shortage of milk, meat, vegetables, bread and kerosene.

Akhtar Ali Khazi, chief minister of the province of Sind, which includes the seven million people of Karachi, said Tuesday the government would deal sternly with rioters.

Opposition leaders said the government had failed to cope and called for fresh elections.

"The government has totally failed to protect peaceful citizens and law and order has gone from bad to worse," said Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, chairman of the National People's Party.

Karachi's stock exchange reopened after it closed Monday because few traders turned up due to the curfew. Share prices were drifting down, said broker Haji Shakoor.

Industrialist Khalil Ahmad Nanitalwala said the troubles in the country's biggest port and industrial centre were hurting the whole country.

COLUMN

No outrunning an Arabian horse

COLVILLE, Washington (AP) — A 48-year-old athletic trainer says he is giving up his goal of outrunning an Arabian stallion.

Bill Misner of Spokane reached the finish, designated as the first stoplight in Colville, just four minutes behind Zeke, ridden by Becky Fanning.

"I wanted him so bad, you can't believe it," Misner said. Misner completed the gruelling course in six hours, 44 minutes and 47 seconds after leaving the start in Deer Park. Last year, Misner lost to Zeke by six minutes.

He said he decided to try to outrun a horse after watching a television programme called "Sports Fantasies."

"I thought, well golly, that would be interesting to race against a horse because Jesse Owens did that," he said. After the two attempts, he said, he's decided to give up the challenge.

Monkey blacks out Indian city

NEW DELHI (AP) — The city of Kanpur was blacked out for several hours Monday after a monkey was electrocuted on the same high tension wire where her mate was killed 10 days ago, the United News of India reported. It

was a female monkey who had visited the site daily until jumping on the power line. Her mate died April 30 when he jumped on the same line, UNI said. Both episodes caused blackouts of several hours in Kanpur, 386 kilometres southeast of New Delhi.

Haunting Van Gogh portrait up for auction

NEW YORK (R) — A portrait by Vincent Van Gogh of the girl who would witness his suicide a month after it was painted goes up for auction at Christie's auction house Wednesday. "Adeline Ravoux," named after the 13-year-old girl, is expected to draw in excess of \$15 million according to Christie's spokesman.

"It's a high estimate for a painting, but it certainly is not that high for a Van Gogh," said Michael Findlay, head of impressionism and modern art at Christie's.

Meanwhile, the independent Sun said that under a proposed agreement the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were expected to surrender the bulk of their weapons and accept the Indian-Sri Lankan accord.

Front members are to surrender all arms by May 29 at four Buddhist temples, Athulathmudali said. Insurgency activities were to end immediately, he said.

The front has been blamed for killing 260 politicians, soldiers and government officials since last July.

The JVP has carried out violent protests against a peace accord signed with India aimed at ending a Tamil separatist rebellion.

At the same time, a Colombo newspaper reported that Tamil separatists were approaching their own ceasefire agreement with 50,000 Indian troops trying

to restore order in Sri Lanka.

The JVP, a political party consisting of youth from the majority Sinhalese community, was banned in 1983 for alleged involvement in riots against minority Tamils.

Police have accused the JVP of murdering top members of the ruling United National Party and of opposition groups supporting the agreement signed by President Junitus Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi last July.

The pact was aimed at ending the separatist rebellion which has killed more than 8,000 people in the past five years.

Athulathmudali said the agreement between the government and the JVP was negotiated by a Roman Catholic priest, Father Tissa Balasuriya, who has played a prominent role in social service and human rights activities in Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, the independent Sun said that under a proposed agreement the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were expected to surrender the bulk of their weapons and accept the Indian-Sri Lankan accord.

The Tigers have until now rejected the pact. The Tamil rebellion has been responsible for more than 8,000 deaths in the past five years.

Cat owner leaves \$5 million to animal charity

LONDON (AP) — An 80-year-old widow who loved animals left \$5.1 million in her will to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals. The charity said the bequest by Mrs. Dorothy Walker is the biggest donation it has ever received since it was founded in 1824. The society still officially retains the patronage of the royal family, although they are not much involved in its affairs these days.

The charity's executive director, Andrew Richmond, said all he knew about Walker was that she was a widow who lived with her pet cat in the West London suburb of Richmond and died last December.

The bequest of \$5.14 million was announced when her will worth a total of \$5.16 million was published Monday. The remainder of the money will be devoted to legal fees, estate taxes and other expenses.

Heavenly hearse

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Mourners hoping to get their loved ones to the cemetery in comfort may want to consider the latest in funeral coaches — one with velvet seats and options like a stereo, refrigerator and micro-wave oven. The airstream family funeral coach eliminates traffic snarls resulting from caravans of mourners travelling to the cemetery, according to its manufacturer. All this comfort and practicality doesn't come cheap, however.

"Milagro" will be screened as part of the official selection at Cannes May 14, but it is not in the running for awards.

Twenty-one films will compete for the coveted Golden Palm awards. Five additional works are being honoured as official selections.

The United States and Britain have three films each in competition, while France, West Germany and Spain will be represented by two films each.

"Argentina, China, Belgium, Spain, Denmark, Poland, Portugal, Japan and New Zealand-Australia co-production complete the list of international entries."

Bomb explosion at Citibank in New Delhi kills 1, injures 14

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — A powerful bomb exploded at a branch of the American Citibank in central New Delhi Tuesday killing one person and wounding 14.

Police said they did not know who planted the bomb, but immediate suspicion fell on Sikhs fighting for a separate homeland in the northern state of Punjab.

The blast, which devastated the bank, came on the eve of the first anniversary of the dismissal of the elected government of the moderate Akali Dal party in Punjab and the imposition of direct rule from New Delhi.

A U.S. embassy spokeswoman said staff at the mission had been apprised of a "red alert" issued by police against possible attacks in the Indian capital following significantly heightened separatist violence in Punjab.

She denied suggestions that U.S. diplomatic staff had been warned of possible Sikh reprisals for the deportation to India from the United States two weeks ago of wanted Sikh extremist Rupinder Singh Aankhi for overstaying his visa.

The bomb went off just after noon (0630 GMT), demolishing the entire third floor office of the New York-based bank in New Delhi's busy Connaught Place shopping area.

Police said they did not know who planted the bomb, but immediate suspicion fell on Sikhs fighting for a separate homeland in the northern state of Punjab.

Judicial sources in New Caledonia told Reuters the trial would be better held away from the atmosphere of tension clouding the French Pacific territory.

Since the 60,000 population of Noumea, New Caledonia's capital, contains only about 10,000 Kanaks a jury would be likely to be predominantly white, they added.

Separatist leaders campaigning to end French rule of the sun-

Kanak kidnap suspects face Paris trial

NOUMEA, New Caledonia (R) — Melanesian Kanak rebels accused of killing four gendarmes and kidnapping other law officers were flown to Paris Tuesday as officials said they might not get a fair trial in New Caledonia.

A military spokesman said the 29 separatists were put on a special flight to France under police escort after a Paris judge ruled they should stand trial 20,000 kilometres away "for reasons of public security."

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Separatist leaders campaigning to end French rule of the sun-

Reagan denies linking stargazing, policy

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan denied Monday that he allowed astrology to play a role in determining his schedule, and the White House criticised Donald Regan's book detailing Nancy Reagan's interest in stargazing.

At a Rose Garden ceremony honouring small business executives, Reagan was asked whether he would permit the consultation of astrologists in connection with schedule-making and public appearances.

"Well, you asked for it," he replied. "I can't because I never did."

Moments later, however,

Reagan's chief spokesman, Marvin Fitzwater, said the president had misunderstood the question shouted by a reporter from the rear of the Rose Garden. Reagan thought he was being asked whether astrology was being used to make key policy decisions, Fitzwater said.

Earlier, Fitzwater left open the question of whether stargazing still plays a role in scheduling.

For her part, the first lady says she will keep talking to her astrologer, her spokeswoman said.

"I was taken aback by the vengefulness of the attack. It

comes through to me that Don Regan doesn't really like me," Mrs. Reagan was quoted as saying by her press secretary.

Fitzwater gave a sharply-worded statement to reporters on the first lengthy White House reaction to the book by the former White House chief of staff entitled, "For the Record: From Wall Street to Washington."

In the book, Regan contended

Reagan "laid down no rules and no missions" while his wife consulted astrologers in planning president's schedule.

The new book by Donald Regan is a kiss-and-tell story in the mold of all books that seek to exploit the presidency or the first family for personal self-interest," Fitzwater said.

The president emphasised last week that he made no policy decisions based on astrology. We recognise that the first lady has an interest in astrology," he added.

The spokesman defended the first lady's interest in stargazing,

as well as her input into the preparation of the president's schedule.

"She has every reason to make contributions on presidential schedules and activities," Fitzwater said. "She has every right to continue it," he added at another point.

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